BATTLEWORLD
GHOST RACERS™
SMITH
GEDEON
BONVILLAIN
SECRET WARS
MARVEL
002

GO KETCH DAN
DANIEL KETCH
GHOST RACERS™
SECRET WARS
GO DAMN BOY!!!
GEDEON + CABRERA 2015
MARVEL
VARIANT EDITION
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THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED!

THE HEROES OF EARTH-616 AND EARTH-1610 WERE POWERLESS TO SAVE IT!

NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS...IS **BATTLEWORLD!**

A MASSIVE, PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM!

EACH DOMAIN HOLDING ITS OWN MYSTERIES AND ENCHANTMENTS, BUT THIS DOMAIN IS MOST SPECIAL, AS IT IS THE CAPITAL STATE KNOWN AS...

DOOMSTADT

SECRET WARS

ON ITS OUTSKIRTS IS AN ARENA BUILT TO ENTERTAIN THE MASSES OF BATTLEWORLD: THE KILLISEUM! HERE, GRUESOME GAMES AND EVENTS ABOUND. GLADIATOR FIGHTS! MONSTER SLAYING! EXECUTIONS! BUT NO ATTRACTION SO POPULAR, EXCITING OR DANGEROUS AS THE **GHOST RACES!!!**

KILLISEUM
LAP 3/5 04' 35" 53

1ST ROBBIE REYES

2ND JOHNNY BLAZE

3RD ALEJANDRA BLAZE

4TH CARTER SLADE

5TH DANNY KETCH

NEW CHALLENGER

VENUS COMPILER

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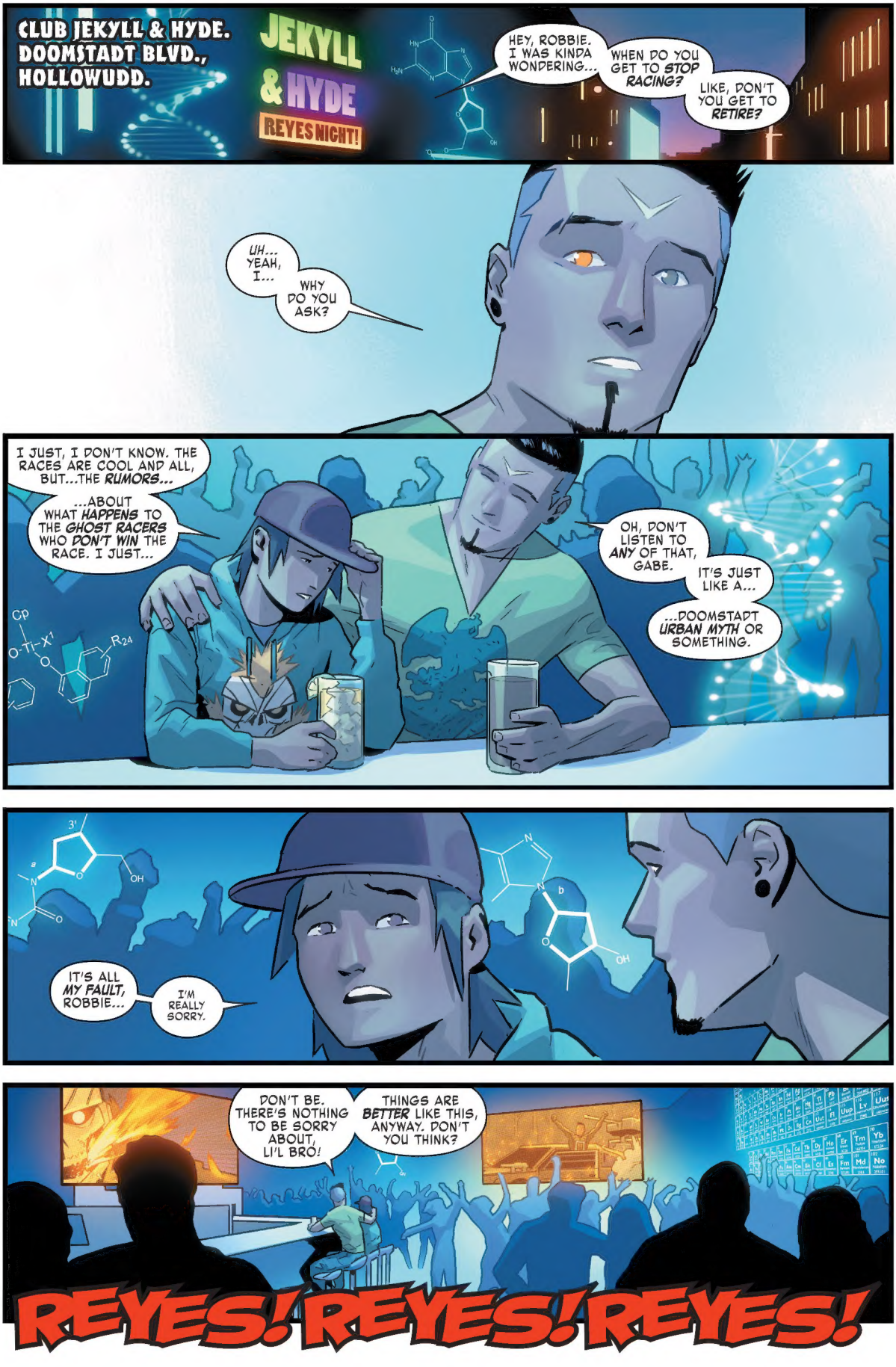
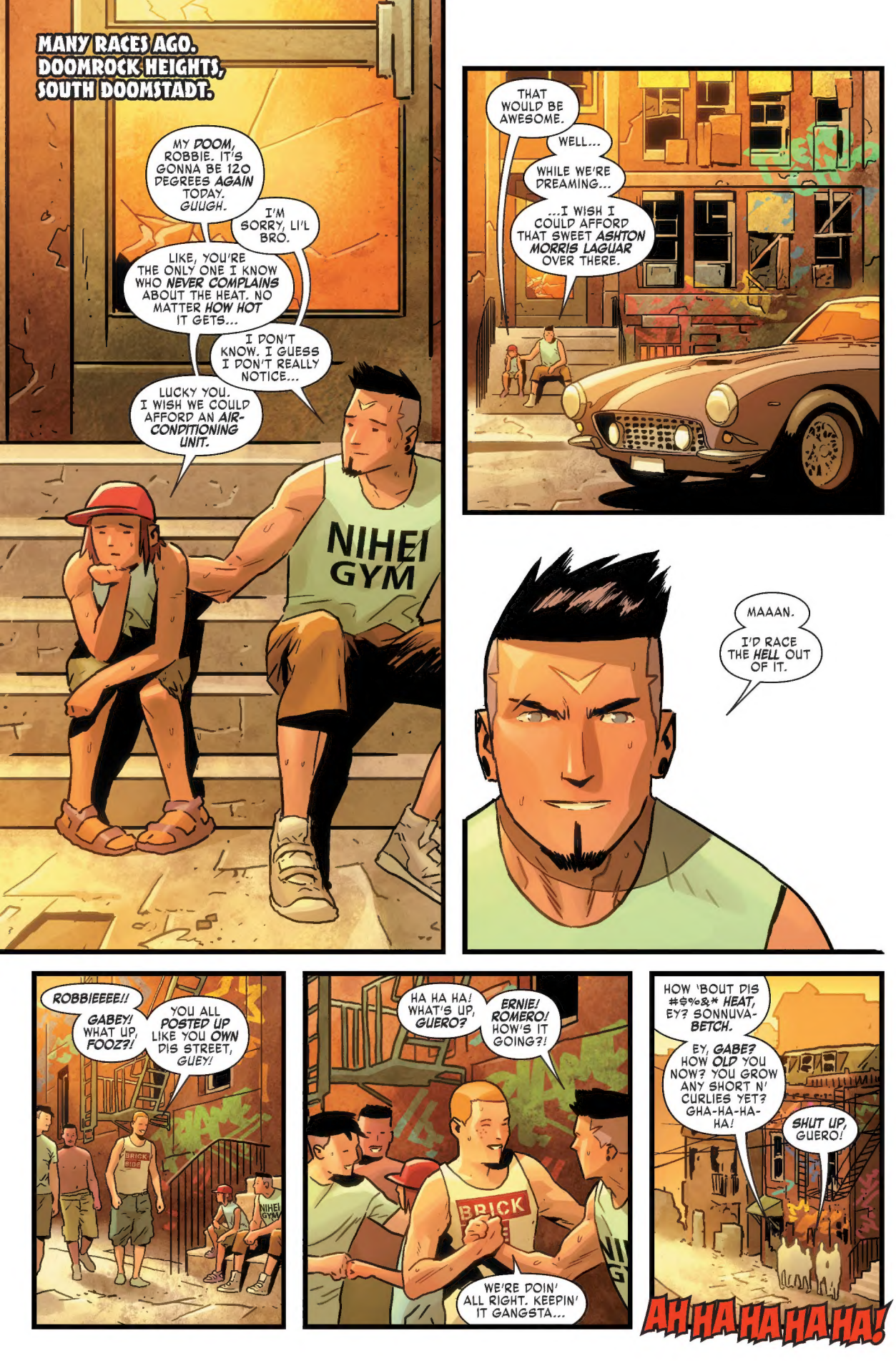
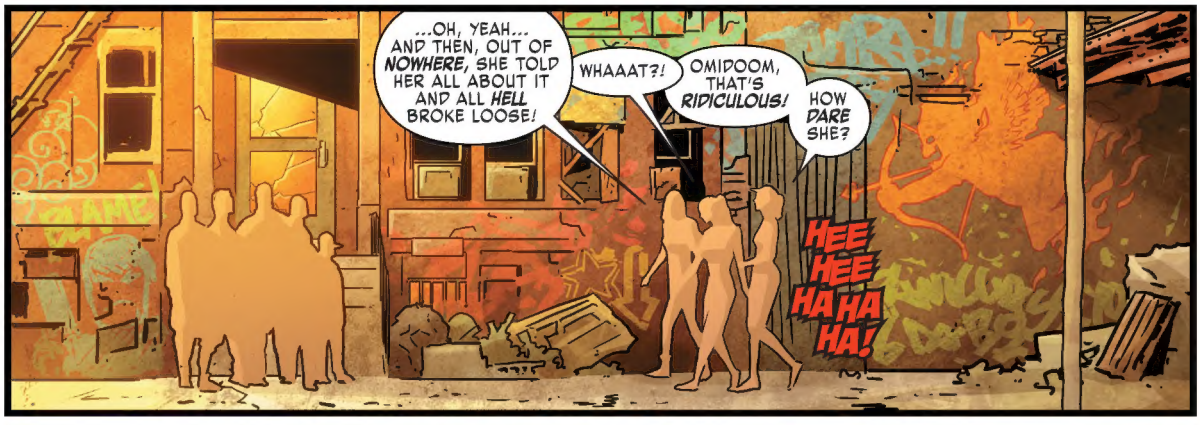

CLUB JEKYLL & HYDE.
DOOMSTADT BLVD.,
HOLLOWUDD.
JEKYLL & HYDE
REYES NIGHT!
HEY, ROBBIE. I WAS KINDA WONDERING...
WHEN DO YOU GET TO STOP RACING?
LIKE, DON'T YOU GET TO RETIRE?
UH... YEAH, I...
WHY DO YOU ASK?
I JUST, I DON'T KNOW. THE RACES ARE COOL AND ALL, BUT...THE RUMORS...
...ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO THE GHOST RACERS WHO DON'T WIN THE RACE. I JUST...
OH, DON'T LISTEN TO ANY OF THAT, GABE.
IT'S JUST LIKE A...
...DOOMSTADT URBAN MYTH OR SOMETHING.
IT'S ALL MY FAULT, ROBBIE...
I'M REALLY SORRY.
DON'T BE. THERE'S NOTHING TO BE SORRY ABOUT, LI'L BRO!
THINGS ARE BETTER LIKE THIS, ANYWAY. DON'T YOU THINK?
REYES! REYES! REYES!


MANY RACES AGO.
DOOMROCK HEIGHTS, SOUTH DOOMSTADT.
MY DOOM, ROBBIE. IT'S GONNA BE 120 DEGREES AGAIN TODAY. GUUGH.
I'M SORRY, LI'L BRO.
LIKE, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I KNOW WHO NEVER COMPLAINS ABOUT THE HEAT. NO MATTER HOW HOT IT GETS...
I DON'T KNOW. I GUESS I DON'T REALLY NOTICE...
LUCKY YOU. I WISH WE COULD AFFORD AN AIR-CONDITIONING UNIT.
NIHEI GYM
THAT WOULD BE AWESOME.
WELL...
WHILE WE'RE DREAMING...
...I WISH I COULD AFFORD THAT SWEET ASHTON MORRIS LAGUAR OVER THERE.
MAAAN.
I'D RACE THE HELL OUT OF IT.
ROBBIEEEE!!
GABEY! WHAT UP, FOOZ?!
YOU ALL POSTED UP LIKE YOU OWN DIS STREET, GUEY!
BRICK SIDE
NIHEI GYM
HA HA HA! WHAT'S UP, GUERO?
ERNIE! ROMERO! HOW'S IT GOING?!
BRICK
WE'RE DOIN' ALL RIGHT. KEEPIN' IT GANGSTA...
HOW 'BOUT DIS #$%&* HEAT, EY? SONNUVA-BETCH.
EY, GABE? HOW OLD YOU NOW? YOU GROW ANY SHORT N' CURLIES YET? GHA-HA-HA-HA!
SHUT UP, GUERO!
AH HA HA HA HA HA!


...OH, YEAH... AND THEN, OUT OF NOWHERE, SHE TOLD HER ALL ABOUT IT AND ALL HELL BROKE LOOSE!
WHAAAT?!
OMIDOOM, THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
HOW DARE SHE?
HEE HEE HA HA HA!

NIHEI GYM

SHE LOOKED AT YOU, ROBBIE!
YEAH, CUZ. GET OVER DERE!
HEH HEH...
YEH, FOO! SHE'S NICE, EY!
GO TALK TO HER! DON'T BE A %^&*#!
BRICK
GYM

UM.
PARDON ME...?
?
OR... YEAH...WITH THE RED HAIR... HEH...
I...

SO, UH... CAN YOU BELIEVE IT'S GONNA BE 120 DEGREES AGAIN TODAY?
YES. I CAN, ACTUALLY.
GUERO...
HAIL HYDRANT

NEED HELP, FOO?
GHEGH! NAH, I GOT THIS!
BRICK SIDE
TRY DOIN' IT LIKE A MAN, NOW!
KHA-HA-HA-HA!
KK-KLANKK
PFFTZZZZ
DAT'S MY LI'L G!
YEEUUH!
SHHHHHHHH
I DID IT! I DID IT!
YAAAY!!!
AH HA HA HA!!
SPLSHHH
KYAAAA!!
UGHK--
SMACK
KEE HA HA HA HA! YEAAAYY!
YOU THA MAN, GABE.

PATROL
D.P.D.
002
ATTENTION, CITIZEN OF DOOMSTADT:
UNDER ARTICLE F3L-IP3 OF THE LAW OF GOD DOOM, YOU'VE ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITY BY TAMPERING WITH DOOMSTADT PROPERTY AND ARE THEREFORE PUNISHABLE BY SAID LAW.
PFFFTTTZZ
AH--
HEY! HEY! I DID IT! IT WAS ME! I OPENED THE FIRE HYDRANT! NOT HIM!
NIHEI
STAY AWAY FROM HIM!
SCANNING...
198373
1568112035
31684746
ALERT
ARREST OVERRIDE.
NEW DIRECTIVE:
APPREHEND SUBJECT
REYES, ROBERTO R.
WARNING
IGNITER SPIRIT DETECTED
CALLING ON-DUTY PEACE OFFICERS.

002
D.P.D.
OUTLAW. DO NOT RESIST ARREST.
ACTS OF INSURGENCE WILL BE MET WITH DIRE CONSEQUENCE.
THOR OFFICERS NOW?!
WHY?!
ROBBIE... WHAT'S GOING ON?!
LET 'IM GO, YOU $%^&#! HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!
KLANK KLANG
KLUNK KLANKK
NO! RAAAGH!!
AAGH!! SON OF A $%^&#!!
LET US GO, YOU %^&#@ PIG BOT!
ROBBIE! NO!
ROBBIE...

LIVE FAST. DIE HARD. RACE FOREVER!

GHOST RACERS

STORY: FELIPE SMITH ART: JUAN GEDEON

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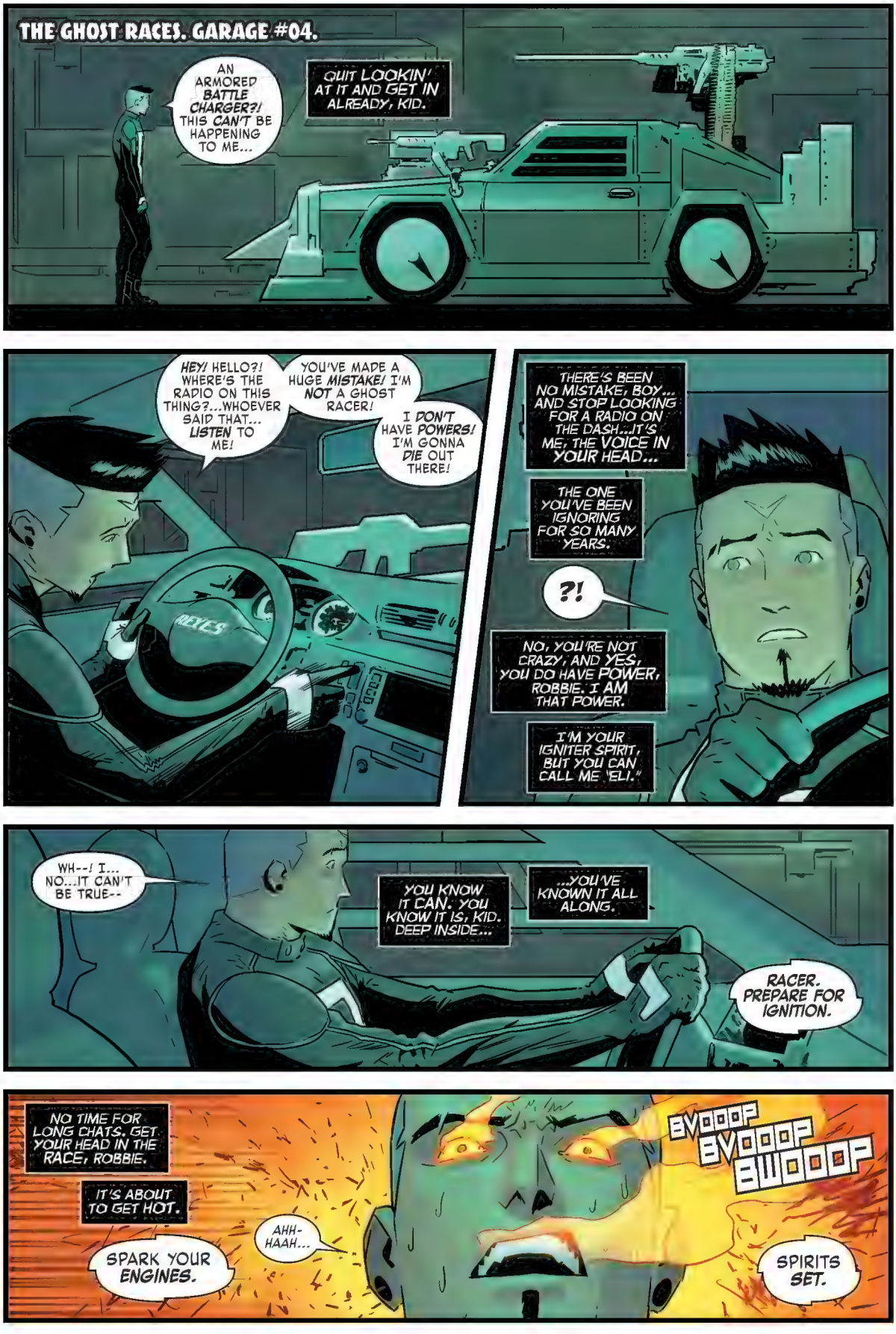
PUBLISHER DAN BUCKLEY EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ALAN FINE

DOOMSTADT COLISEUM.
"HELP! WHY THE HELL AM I HERE?! I DON'T BELONG HERE!
"YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE, DAMMIT! I'M NOT A--"
GHOST RACER!
HOLD THINE TONGUE AND READY THY ABERRANT SOUL FOR IGNITION...
...THOU FOUL DESECRATOR OF ALL THAT IS LAWFUL AND JUST IN THE WORD OF LORD DOOM.
ARCADE, THIS ONE'S DIFFERENT.
HOW SO?
HIS SPIRIT OF IGNITION...I'VE SEEN NOTHING LIKE IT...IT DRAWS ITS POWER FROM A DIFFERENT SOURCE.
HE'S NOT LIKE THE OTHERS.
WELL, ZADKIEL...
ALL THAT SPIRIT CRAP IS YOUR BUSINESS. DIFFERENT OR NOT...
...AS LONG AS HE MAKES A HELL OF A RACER, I DON'T GIVE A DAMN!
AND YOU! GET READY FOR THE MAIN EVENT, YOUNG MAN!
KLNK
IT'S SHOW TIME!

I'M NORMAL, DAMMIT! I'M NOT A SINNER!
I'M NOT POSSESSED!
SAVE IT, BOY.
HEARD THAT ONE ALREADY.
WE'RE ALL SINNERS IN HERE, BUTTERCUP. YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN ANY ONE OF US.
SO MAN UP...
...AND FOR DOOM'S SAKE...SHUT UP, ALREADY.
ZERO
1%
MIDNIGHT SONS
KID'S GONNA ROAST HARD TODAY.
GONNA WISH HE WAS NEVER BORN.
HEYA, TOOTS. YER ALL FIT TO BURN ON THE SPIT, 'CAUSE I'M A-WINNIN'.
HEAR ME LOUD AND CLEAR, YA SEE?
MYEEHH.
KNUCKLES O'SHAUGHNESSY. YOU'RE THE WORST GHOST RACER IN HISTORY.
YOU SUCK.

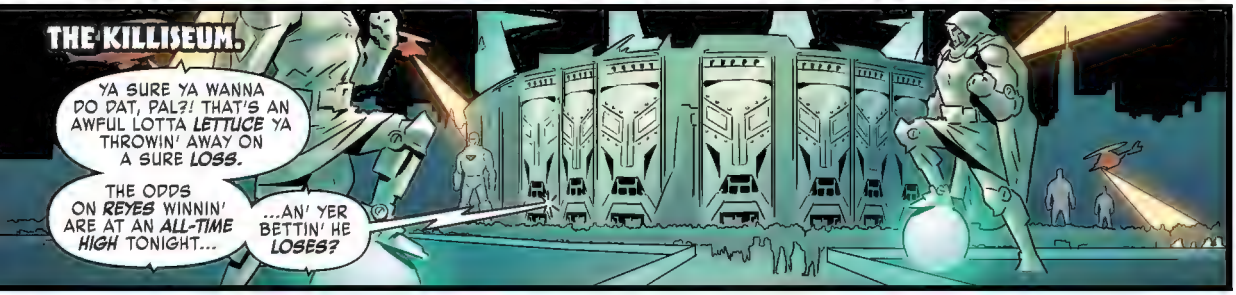

THE GHOST RACES. GARAGE #04.
AN ARMORED BATTLE CHARGER?! THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING TO ME...
QUIT LOOKIN' AT IT AND GET IN ALREADY, KID.
HEY! HELLO?! WHERE'S THE RADIO ON THIS THING?...WHOEVER SAID THAT... LISTEN TO ME!
YOU'VE MADE A HUGE MISTAKE! I'M NOT A GHOST RACER!
I DON'T HAVE POWERS! I'M GONNA DIE OUT THERE!
THERE'S BEEN NO MISTAKE, BOY... AND STOP LOOKING FOR A RADIO ON THE DASH...IT'S ME, THE VOICE IN YOUR HEAD...
THE ONE YOU'VE BEEN IGNORING FOR SO MANY YEARS.
?!
NO, YOU'RE NOT CRAZY, AND YES, YOU DO HAVE POWER, ROBBIE. I AM THAT POWER.
I'M YOUR IGNITER SPIRIT, BUT YOU CAN CALL ME 'ELI."
WH--! I... NO...IT CAN'T BE TRUE--
YOU KNOW IT CAN. YOU KNOW IT IS, KID. DEEP INSIDE...
...YOU'VE KNOWN IT ALL ALONG.
RACER. PREPARE FOR IGNITION.
NO TIME FOR LONG CHATS. GET YOUR HEAD IN THE RACE, ROBBIE.
IT'S ABOUT TO GET HOT.
SPARK YOUR ENGINES.
AHH-HAAH...
BVOOOP BVOOOP BWOOOP
SPIRITS SET.

IGNITION, GO!
HIIYAAAAAARRRR!!!
BRRMMMMMMM
START
VRROOOAA
BRRMMMMM
SKREECH SKREEE
AAAGHH!!
PLEASE! MAKE IT STO-P!!
DAMMIT, ROBBIE. FOCUS.
SNAP OUT OF IT AND STEP ON THE GAS.
VRRRRRRAAAAAA
JUDGING BY HOW DESPERATELY THE REST OF THESE SPIRITS ARE MOVING...
KLANG
KA-KKOW
BA-KLANK
VRRRRRMM
...I DON'T THINK WE WANT TO LOSE THIS RACE...
LET'S MOVE!
VVAAAAAOOOHHHH

BA-KOOM
KRATCH
KA-KRANG
SKREEEEE
WOOOH!! LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!
IT LOOKS LIKE OUR GHOST RACERS ARE GIVING NEWCOMER, ROBERTO R. REYES A HELL OF A WELCOME PARTY!
BRA-KKA-BOOMM
SKREEEEE
OHH!! BEGINNER'S LUCK WAS NOT A PART OF THE EQUATION FOR RACER REYES TONIGHT!
BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME, PAL!
AND WE HAVE OUR WINNER, GHOST RACER FANS!
ALEJANDRA BLAZE, A.K.A., THE BLACK MAGIC MENACE, TAKES IT THIS TIME...
...FOLLOWED VERY CLOSELY BY WHAT WE CAN IMAGINE IS A VERY UPSET DANIEL KETCH!
NOOOOOOO!
VALKOOOOOM
OUR RACERS HAVE NOW BEEN DESPIRITED BY CHIEF ZADKIEL, OUR GHOST RACE HEAD OF SAFETY AND SECURITY, MARKING THE END OF YET ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL EVENT!
AAAAAGHHH!! DAMMIT!! I'LL KILL YOU!
HRRRRGG!!
NO, NO, NO! MERCY! MERCY!! I BEG YOU! LET ME BE!!
I'M ARCADE, AND ON BEHALF OF THE GHOST RACER FEDERATION...
...GOOD NIGHT. DRIVE SAFE. AND ALWAYS BUCKLE UP!
WH--?
WHERE...ARE YOU TAKING ME?
ROBBIE...THIS ISN'T GOOD.

UUUHH--!
N-N-NO. PLEASE!
RGHHH!!
NY-AARGH!!
MMGH!
MGHHRRHH!!
WHAT TH--?!!
IIEERAAAAAAHHH!!!
NGG-H-AAAAAAHH!!!
WHY ARE THEY DOING THIS TO US?!
MOTIVATION TO WIN THE NEXT RACE.
IT'S-NOT... GGH...RIGHT!!!
GAHHHH!!
CLEARLY. HERE'S THE DEAL, ROBBIE...
YOU MAKE SURE WE NEVER LOSE AGAIN...
...AND I'LL FIND A WAY TO GET US OUT OF THIS HELLHOLE.

CLUB JEKYLL & HYDE. NOW, NOTHING BUT CONSECUTIVE RACE VICTORIES LATER.
SO, YOU SEE? THERE'S REALLY NOTHING TO BE WORRIED ABOUT, GABE.
THE RUMORS YOU'VE HEARD ARE JUST THAT. RUMORS. EVERYTHING'S FINE AT THE RACES. NO NEED TO BE AFRAID.
THAT'S 'CAUSE YOU'RE THE BEST GHOST RACER IN HISTORY, THOUGH! YOU CAN HANDLE ANYTHING, ROBBIE!
I'D BE SO SCARED IF IT WAS ME RACING! KEE HA HA!
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO GUERO, ROMERO AND ERNIE AFTER THEY GOT ARRESTED...
I NEVER SAW THEM AFTER THAT.
ARE THEY GHOST RACERS TOO?
UH...
MAYB-- YOU KNOW...
YEAH.
THAT'S PROBABLY IT. THEY'RE PROBABLY TRAINING TO RACE IN OUR CIRCUIT... ANY DAY NOW, PROBABLY...
I HOPE SO. THAT WOULD BE SO COOL...

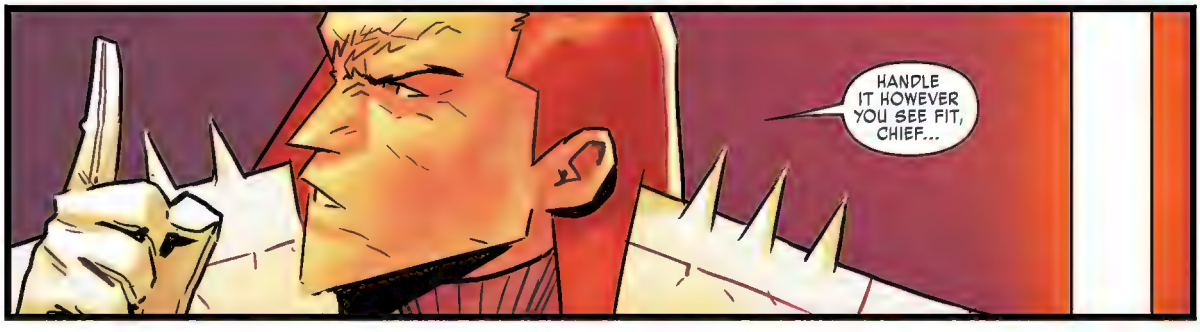

THE KILLISEUM.
YA SURE YA WANNA DO DAT, PAL?! THAT'S AN AWFUL LOTTA LETTUCE YA THROWIN' AWAY ON A SURE LOSS.
THE ODDS ON REYES WINNIN' ARE AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH TONIGHT...
...AN' YER BETTIN' HE LOSES?

LISTEN TO ME CLOSELY.
SHUT YOUR MOUTH. PLACE MY BET FOR THE AMOUNT OF 5.2 ON THE LOSS OF ROBERTO R. REYES...

...AND KEEP YOUR IRRELEVANT MUSINGS TO YOURSELF...
...YOU PATHETIC, PARASITIC... LIVING REFUSE.
CLICK

ZADKIEL. ONCE AGAIN.
REYES CAN BY NO MEANS WIN THE RACE TONIGHT.
I'VE GOT SOME TRICKS UP MY SLEEVE, BUT THEY'LL BE A MERE DIVERSION.
I WANT YOU TO DE-SPIRIT HIM BEFORE HE CROSSES THE FINISH LINE. SHUT DOWN HIS DAMN IGNITER SPIRIT IF YOU MUST.

UNDERSTOOD. BUT...I HAVE TOLD YOU BEFORE, THE BOY DRAWS HIS POWERS FROM A DIFFERENT SOURCE. IT'S BECOMING HARDER TO CONTROL HIM.
HIS IGNI--
AND I'VE TOLD YOU, "THAT SPIRIT CRAP IS YOUR BUSINESS," ZADKIEL.


HANDLE IT HOWEVER YOU SEE FIT, CHIEF...

"...BUT REYES CANNOT WIN TONIGHT."
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! WELCOME ONCE AGAIN TO THE GHOST RACES!! BATTLEWORLD'S PREMIER ENTERTAINMENT EXTRAVAGANZA!!
I'M YOUR HOST, ARCADE! AND NEXT TO ME...DONNING THE MOST SPLENDID CAPE...AND THE POWER TO CONTROL THE BEASTS WE ARE ABOUT TO UNLEASH ON THE TRACK...
...HE'S OUR GHOST RACE FEDERATION'S OWN CHIEF OF SECURITY AND SAFETY...ZADKIEL THE GUARDIAN ANGEL!
YEEAAAHH!!
AND THEY'RE OFF! MARKING THE BEGINNING OF YET ANOTHER ELECTRIFYING KILLISEUM GHOST RACE, FOLKS!
GO!
BRRMMMMM
HEADS UP, ROBBIE.
I SEE IT.
BUT WHAT'S A CLASS-3 MUTOID DOING SO CLOSE TO THE STARTING LINE?
THAT'S WEIRD.
BRRRRR
ANYWAY. I GOT THIS.
KLK
K-KLANG
I'LL CUT IT DOWN WITH A QUICK ROUND.

"ERNIE...
"GUERO...
"ROMERO..."
UMNUH... UMMUUH!!
GUEY-BRUH! GUEY-FOO! GUEY-CUZ!
BUUGLOOO-RGH!
SHHHH-IINK
NO!
WHAT DID...THE BASTARDS DO TO YOU?!
SKREEE
HA HA.
FIND THOSE FACES FAMILIAR, DO YOU, REYES?
UNDISPUTED CHAMP, ROBBIE REYES SEEMS TO BE IN REAL TROUBLE!
K-K-KLANG
RRR-EEEEK
MY DOOM! LOOK AT THEM, ELI! IT'S NOT RIGHT!
THEY'VE GONE TOO FAR!
K-POOM
BLA-KKOWW
NOOOOO!!

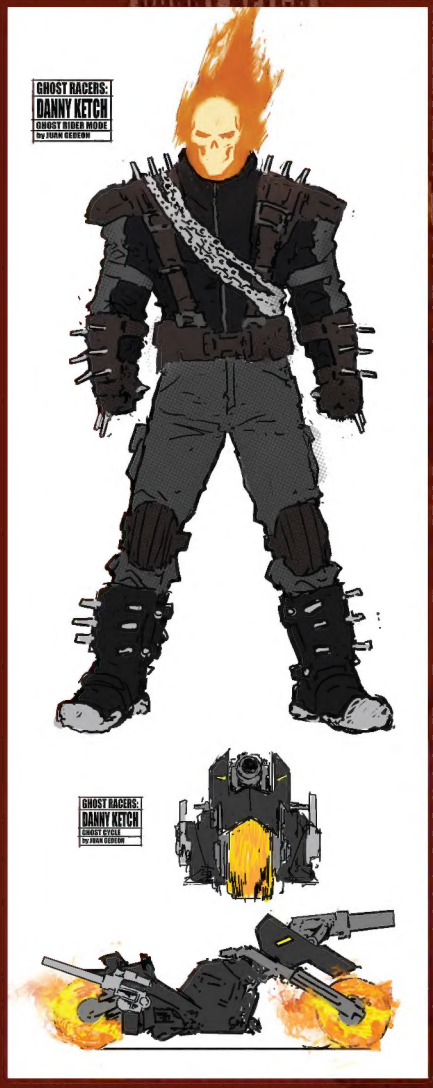
THEY KILLED THEM! THEY KILLED GUERO--!
THEY KILLED MY FRIENDS!
?
UH-OH!
RACER REYES BETTER DO SOMETHING PRONTO!
ELI! REMEMBER WHEN YOU SAID YOU'D GET US OUT OF THIS HELLHOLE?!
YUP.
AND YOU GUESSED RIGHT, GHOST RACER FANS! VENUS COMPILER, THE "RACETRACK REAPER"... "GAMBLER'S RUIN" HERSELF...
...HAS BEEN DEPLOYED TO EVEN THE ODDS!
HER SOLE OBJECTIVE NOW: ELIMINATE GHOST RACER, ROBBIE R. REYES!
BA-KAAMM
BA-KKAAMM
BA-KOOM
VENUS COMPILER
URRRRRRRRM
WELL, NOW WOULD BE THE RIGHT TIME!
AND THE FANS IN THE STANDS GO WILD!
GET US OUT OF HERE, ELI!

FWOOM
FWOOM
FWOOM
ELI! RGHH!! I DON'T THINK WE'RE GONNA MAKE IT!
RELAX, KID. I'VE GOT THIS.
JUST HOLD THE WHEEL STRAIGHT NO MATTER WHAT. OKAY?
BRA-KKA-BOOOM
IEAAGHH!!
ELI, HURRY!
BA-KKOOM
BA-KKOOM
HEH HEH. YOU'RE DONE, REYES.
VVMMMM
ELI, WHAT THE--?!
SO LONG, SUCKERS!
VWWMMMM
BRRAAAA--

SKREEEE
VMMM FZZ FZZ
WHAT?! ZADKIEL!
WHERE DID HE GO?! WHERE IS HE?!!
I...I DON'T...I CAN'T...
I CAN'T SENSE HIM. HE'S NOT IN THE ARENA.
I DON'T GET MY MONEY IF HE DISAPPEARS, DOOMIT! FIND HIM!
DO WHATEVER IT TAKES!! AND DO IT NOW!!
VERY WELL.
KRA-KKAMM
BRA-KKOOWW

"SIC OUR BEST GHOST RACERS ON HIM!
"ALL OF THEM!!!
"I WANT REYES' FLAMING HEAD ON A STAKE!"
TO BE CONTINUED...

THE DEVIL'S IN THE DETAILS
PART 2: KETCHING FIRE
Behind the scenes of the GHOST RACER character designs
DANNY KETCH by Juan Gedeon



For me, **GHOST RIDER** has always been the chain-swinging guy with the fire-skull, black leather jacket, boots, spikes and the black bike with the armored plate. I didn't know this guy was actually **DANNY KETCH**. I thought it was something like when **HULK** separated from **BRUCE BANNER** and they were two different beings, so I thought this **GHOST RIDER** was **JOHNNY BLAZE'S** materialized essence or something like that. Yes, I'm very ignorant about super heroes. Sorry, guys!

Felipe explained to me the differences between **DANNY** and **JOHNNY**, so I started from there. **DANNY** is heavy metal. Hard rock. Anger. More strength than speed. He wouldn't dodge a punch, he'd take it and enjoy it. He'd knock down a building instead of going around it. He'd charge like a buffalo instead of being crafty like a snake. I imagine him screaming and roaring all the time, like a beast. Zakk Wylde's voice. He listens to Acid King. Maybe Iron Maiden on a happy day. He's a tiger. He's the guy that frowns all the time and stands at the back in animes, or with his back facing the viewer with arms crossed. Once I had all this stuff in my head, the design came out easily.

I'm a child of the "Practical Super hero Suit" era (or the "Post-Nolan" era), so I tried to update his look without damaging his essence. My first take didn't look at all like **KETCH**, so I stuck to the classic. Design-wise, he could stab himself with those spikes around his forearms of the classic design, so I made them point out. Instead of spikes I threw in some sort of big nails because I think they're more creepy (and I feel like it hasn't been done before). The spikes can hurt, but if he gets you with the nails, you'd probably get stuck there, like with a cactus, and you don't wanna get stuck with **KETCH**. So this thing screams **"STAY AWAY"**. Also, I tried to use black fire for his skull at first but that didn't work (what was I thinking?). Same with the boots. Running or fighting with leather boots must be very uncomfortable, kids! At first I gave him soldier boots, but they had no punch. So then I added the nails on his shins and a steel point on his feet that can be mistaken for casual shoes. That was intentional: I think it makes him look younger, and cool. The harness with shoulder pads on his torso is pretty much what saves the design but not sure where I took that from! But it makes him look like a character from a fighting game, so I think it works.

I think he's almost indestructible at close range, but what about long range? His bike is kinda like a tank, so I put a cannon on the front that can blow a hole on the Moon and two smaller ones on the back for defense in my desperation to add something new. Hope you Ketch fans dig.

-Juan Gedeon

ISSUE 3: COVER BY FRANCESCO FRANCAVILLA

ISSUE 2: VARIANT COVER BY JUAN GEDEON & CARLO CABRERA